

RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

gling of arms to India, Moscow's sponsorship of the Hindu Revolutionary Committee, and the reception by the Indian Communist party of subsidies from the Comintern were also mentioned. The ultimatum demanded a repudiation of, and an apology for, these acts by the Soviet government and the recall of guilty officials. It accused the Soviet Union of violating the nonpropaganda clause of the Soviet-British Trade Agreement of 1921 and set a ten-day time limit for Soviet compliance. The ultimatum, which reached Moscow on May 8, brought a reply within five days. The Soviet reply was generally conciliatory and satisfied British demands with regard to the compensation of some British families who had lost relatives in Russia in the postwar period, as well as on some other points. On the score of propaganda in Central Asia, however, the Soviet note was evasive. It did not deny outright the authenticity of the documents cited by the British, but it pointed out that "similar material is at the disposal of all governments, and if they use them for creating conflicts and as a foundation for protests, then friendly relations between any two governments could hardly exist." ²² It also tried to put blame on the British for similar anti-Soviet activities undertaken by Great Britain in the Caucasus and Transcaspia during the period of civil war and intervention in Russia. The Soviet note was generally well received in England, as it proved that firm British policy, with the threat of economic boycott of the Soviets, was apt to produce changes in the Soviet attitude. But still the propaganda issue remained unsolved, and the British government, in further correspondence, pressed

Moscow for a definite
pledge in this respect. The exchange of notes on this
subject between
the two governments lasted till June 13, 1923, and
eventually pro-
duced the signing of an additional agreement
concerning the re-
nunciation of hostile propaganda by both countries,
an agreement
which contained more precise definitions than the
original non-
propaganda pledge of the Trade Agreement. As a
result, Moscow
recalled Raskolnikov from Afghanistan but retained
Shumiatsky in
Iran. Curzon congratulated himself in a letter to Lord
Crewe about
his success: "I think I may claim to have won a
considerable victory
22 *ibid.*